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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A method and apparatus determines an uncoded bit error rate p_b based on a target symbol error rate ε_s. The uncoded bit error rate p_b is determined based on a weighted series expansion of the target symbol error rate ε_s, comprising weights W that are a function of a maximum number of symbol errors that can be corrected t and a number of symbols in an information field K. The maximum number of symbol errors t and the number of symbols in the information field K is selected such that the uncoded bit error rate p_b that produces a symbol error rate that is less than or equal to the target symbol error rate ε_s is largest.